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FLOOR DEBATE

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common fiscal problem to resolve. You can and should be part of that resolution. It is not somebody else.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Mr. Clerk, a priority motion.

CLERK: Mr. President, priority motion. Senator Brashear would move to bracket the bill until April 19, 2002.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Brashear, you're recognized to open on your bracket motion till April 19, 2002.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. President, members of the body, what we are now going to address and...and do globally with the bracket motion is very, very important. It's beyond the emotion of the moment, and it deals with the nature and character of the state of Nebraska, its people, its constitution, and the sanctity of its contracts and its words. But when you're going to do something for the moment that's important, it's, I think, good to put it in perspective. And I'd undertake in my own little way to do that, and hope you approve. It's easy to forget our history. There are a lot of ways to measure success. For more than a hundred years, more people moved out of Nebraska than moved into it. I summarize that to people by saying, you know, in the last hundred years, we only had ten really good ones, and they were the last ten, and it may be 90 before we have another good ten. People have moved out of this state in overwhelming numbers. In the 1930s, we lost 170,000 more people than we gained in the decade of the thirties alone; that was 12 percent of the population. In the 1980s, in that decade alone, we suffered a net loss of 100,000 potential taxpaying citizens, 100,000. If not for a slight increase in the birth rate, we would have an absolute loss of population in the 1980s. There was no doubt at that time that we were in line to lose one of our seats in the House of Representatives of the United States Congress if those trends had continued. But the trends did not continue. Why? We had a net migration in the 1990s that was plus 48,234 people. That's a 2.8 percent increase in our 2000 population, and that was the first time in a hundred years that we had a positive net migration, 100 years. What Nebraska has proven since the inception of LB 775, as it's referred to, and